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DEPARTMENT FOR OES/OA DAVID HERMANN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OTRA](#) [SENV](#) [EFIS](#) [PHSA](#) [ASEC](#) [PE](#)
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR DAS DAVID BALTON

REF: STATE 21555

¶1. (U) The Embassy grants country clearance for the visit to Peru of Ambassador David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries from February 26-28, 2007. The purpose of this trip is to attend and deliver the keynote address to the Humane Society International Conference on Whale and Dolphin Watching to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Lima. Reservations for the nights of Feb. 26 and 27 have been made at the Doubletree Hotel. Control Officer Hal Howard will meet and assist Ambassador Balton at the airport.

When departing Lima by air, the Republic of Peru imposes an airport departure tax on any outbound passenger of 30.25 USD for international flights and 6.05 USD for domestic flights.

¶2. (U) POINT OF CONTACT, TELEPHONE NUMBERS, ADDRESS AND COMPUTER USE:

Point of contact for the visit is Deputy Economic Counselor and ESTH Officer Howell Howard, office telephone number (51)(1)618-2414, cellular telephone (51)(1)9-628-6866, e-mail: howardhh@state.gov. Embassy after-hours direct line for Marine Security Guard is (51)(1)618-2936. The Embassy address is Av. La Encalada, Cuadra 17, in the Monterrico Sur Section of Lima.

State Department TDY visitors requiring OpenNet-Plus Systems access during their stay should directly contact Daniel Siebert, ISO, in advance of their arrival so a computer account can be created if needed.

Any employee who intends to bring U.S. Government portable microcomputers (laptops) for use in CAA or non-CAA areas must notify post, s ISSO and RSO in advance of travel. 12 FAH-6 h-314 prohibits the installation or use of any privately owned computer in a government building where classified information is processed or stored. Accordingly, post policy prohibits Personal Electronic Devices (PED), Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) e.g. &Palm Pilots8, MP-3 players, etc. within the Chancery facility. Such devices are never authorized in CAA spaces and are not authorized connectivity within OpenNet unclassified or classified networks, or stand-alone classified PCs. Personnel who wish to bring PDAs authorized under the Department of State, s Secure Wireless Extended Enterprise Technology (SWEET) program into the Chancery must notify Post, s ISSO and RSO in advance of travel. Find information concerning the SWEET program at <http://sweet.irm.state.gov>. Please refer to 03 STATE 286036 for detailed guidance regarding Post, s Information Systems security requirements.

¶3. (U) PASSPORT/VISAS:

To ensure full protection for travelers, the mission requires that all visitors eligible for official/diplomatic passports use them with appropriate visa. Travelers should not use tourist passports. In exceptional cases where official travelers must use tourist passports/visas, specific authorization must be obtained in advance. Foreign citizens bearing tourist passports who come to Peru to work, either officially or in technical or cultural cooperation, must enter the country with an official work visa.

DOD personnel on personal travel must use a tourist passport.

If official visitors arrive via military ship, a passport is not required unless the individual is required to exit Peru via commercial or military air. If an official visitor is a Peruvian National serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, a valid Peruvian (maroon) passport is absolutely necessary in all cases in order for the individual to enter or exit Peru. Proof of residency in the U.S. (green card) is required for return to the U.S. All visas for onward travel should be obtained prior to arrival in Peru.

14. (SBU) SECURITY:

Post reminds all TDY personnel requesting country clearance for temporary duty of 30 days or more of the requirement to complete mandatory personal security training effective January 1, 2005. Personnel requesting country clearance for periods of 30 days or more must certify that they have or will complete the required training prior to their travel, or may request a waiver as per the above policy. For extended TDY requests, individual bureaus (not the Bureau of Human Resources) are responsible for ensuring that their staff, in all employment categories (Civil Service, Foreign Service, WAE, PSC, etc.), meets the training requirement. See 04 State 66580 for more information about the mandatory personal security training requirement.

Country clearance is granted for travel to non-Embassy restricted areas only. Visitors who plan to travel to Embassy restricted areas must request Post approval upon arrival. A list of these areas can be obtained from the RSO.

It is imperative that the Mission be notified immediately of delays or changes in plans or itinerary. Personnel must not change hotels without first notifying control officer. The State Department has designated Peru as high threat for indigenous terrorism, medium threat for transnational terrorism and political violence, and critical threat for crime. Two terrorist groups operate in Peru: Sendero Luminoso (SL) and Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru (MRTA). Both organizations continue to be potential threats and have targeted U.S. facilities in the past. Due to GOP efforts, the activities of the SL and MRTA have been greatly reduced and are now largely confined to rural areas. Overland travel outside of Lima and other large cities during the hours of darkness is prohibited due to unsafe road conditions and the threat of armed criminals. Terrorist groups operate with relative impunity in some interior areas and are known to target vehicular traffic. Crime is a serious problem in metropolitan Lima and popular tourist areas such as Arequipa, Cuzco, and Machu Picchu. Most crimes involve petty theft, pickpocketing, bag slashing, grab-and-run, and theft from occupied and unoccupied vehicles. More violent crimes include armed robbery, carjacking, and choke-and-rob. Criminals frequently react violently when resistance is encountered. In almost all instances it is advisable not to offer resistance. Most areas of downtown Lima are dangerous and should be avoided during the hours of darkness. Visitors are cautioned to remain alert to their surroundings at all times, particularly when in crowded areas, such as on public transportation, at outdoor markets, and at tourist sites. Countermeasures against crime also protect against terrorism. Special care should be exercised at the Jorge Chavez International Airport in Callao. Criminals frequent this area, especially at night, and are known to target foreigners both inside and outside the terminal.

Security briefings are mandatory for all official visitors to

Peru. Briefings are given in the RSO Conference Room at the Embassy, on Wednesdays, promptly at 9:00 a.m.

15. (U) ICASS TDY Policy and Action Request:

Each visitor, regardless of length of stay, must bring/forward fiscal data to pay for direct costs of the visit. Each agency, organization, or visiting delegation will be charged for the actual costs attributed to their visit. Direct charge costs include, but are not limited to: American and LES staff overtime (e.g., expediter, accommodation exchange, representational event support), field travel-lodging and M&IE by Embassy employees, vehicle rentals, long distance telephone calls, equipment rentals, office supplies and all other costs that are directly attributable to the visit. Also, for TDYers over thirty (30) days, there is a charge for ICASS support services. If your sponsoring agency is not signed up for ICASS services at post, please be prepared to sign a MOU for ICASS support services upon arrival. The agency should provide post with a written communication, generated by the traveler, headquarters that confirms the agency will pay ICASS charges for the TDYers, provides the agency ICASS billing code the TDY support charges should be applied to, and authorizes the traveler to sign the ICASS invoice generated by the TDY module. Where travel is urgent, the TDYers should bring this documentation with them to ensure there are no interruptions in the provision of service. Post will not provide any service to a TDYer staying in excess of thirty days without provision of this documentation before day 31 of the TDY.

16. (U) HEALTH CONCERNS:

Travelers to the jungle areas of Peru should have up-to-date yellow fever vaccine and malaria prophylaxis for chloroquine-resistant strains of malaria. Primary prevention against malaria and dengue fever includes avoiding the mosquito vectors of these diseases: using insect repellent, appropriate protective clothing, and bed netting. Hepatitis A and B vaccinations are strongly recommended for all persons before coming to Peru. Rabies is present in country, and those individuals whose work and/or leisure activities might expose them to wild animals or feral dogs should consider receiving the rabies vaccine. Travelers diarrhea/dysentery is quite common in Peru. Visitors should substitute bottled beverages for potentially contaminated water. Fish, shellfish, and vegetables should not be eaten unless well cooked, and all food should be eaten while still hot. Fruits with a peel are generally safe, provided they are peeled before being eaten. Typhoid vaccine is also recommended. Cholera is endemic in Peru and disease rates reach high levels from January to May--the same food and bottled water precautions apply. Travelers planning to travel to high altitude areas of Peru, such as Cuzco, Machu Picchu, and Puno, should consult with their health care provider first, and be fully aware of the health dangers of high altitudes and measures to minimize these dangers.

17. (SBU) MEDICAL CLEARANCES:

All employees, including WAEs and Civil Service Employees, who are in TDY status for more than 60 days (cumulatively) in a calendar year are required to have up-to-date medical clearances from the Office of Medical Services (Ref: SecState 243096) in order to receive full State Department medical benefits including:

--Fully cleared TDY personnel receive supplemental medical coverage from M/MED for conditions that arise overseas. This coverage is in addition to, but does not replace, private insurance coverage;

--Fully cleared TDY employees are eligible for full MEDEVAC benefits should it become necessary to transport them from their assigned posts for medical reasons by other than standard commercial carrier;

--Fully cleared TDY personnel are entitled to use the

facilities of the Medical Unit at post on the same basis as other permanently assigned personnel.

It is important to understand that if an employee is at a post without a medical clearance and the embassy medical provider determines that the employee has a condition that cannot be adequately cared for at that post, the employee may not be granted access to the embassy medical unit. Moreover, an employee at post without a medical clearance is not/not covered under M/MED for medical evacuation. While M/MED cannot provide MEDEVAC coverage for TDY employees without full clearances, private MEDEVAC insurance is available at reasonable cost and the employee is strongly encouraged to purchase the insurance. Private air ambulance medevacs can cost upwards of \$100,000. In addition, it is important for the employee to review private health insurance coverage. Many HMO type policies do not cover hospitalization costs incurred outside of the USA. The employee will need to have a policy type that will reimburse them for medical expenses overseas.

A medical clearance can be obtained as follows:

If the WAE or other TDY employee lives in the Washington, DC area, they can schedule a medical clearance exam by calling (202) 663-1779 or e-mail to medclearances@state.gov. Availability of examination dates depends on demand and M/MED's standard priorities. If the exam is conducted in Washington, there is no cost to the employee. If the employee lives outside Washington, they may have their medical clearance exam performed by a private doctor. The WAE or TDY employee can obtain the forms that the doctor needs to complete by calling (202) 663-1668. Clearance exams performed outside of MED are at the expense of the employee.

Contractors or other long-term TDY employees who are not direct-hire USG employees are not covered under the Department of State Medical Program and so would, in general, fit under the guidelines above for TDY employees without a medical clearance. They are not covered by M/MED for medevac and should be covered by medevac insurance through their contracting company. Access of these employees to the embassy medical units is a post decision made by the Chief of Mission or his designate acting upon the advice of the Regional Medical Officer. Please contact the Embassy Health Unit for further details.

Employees working TDY for less than 60 cumulative days annually are not required to have medical clearances and are not covered under the procedures above. Unfortunately these short-term TDY employees frequently may have significant health problems that may be exacerbated by overseas travel or work and that may require a level of medical care that is not available at the post where the TDY employees are working. As with any international traveler on personal or business travel, these employees should consult with their personal physician regarding the safety or advisability of this travel.

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